

L KANEVSKY

BOOK REVIEWS

Ideological War
Against ChileEduardo Labarca Goddard.
Chile Invadido: Reportaje a la
Intromisión Extranjera.Editora Austral, Santiago de
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Invadido

CIA - Chile

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THE first edition of Eduardo Labarca Goddard's "Chile Invadido: Report on Foreign Interference" was sold out in Chile within three weeks. Its success in other Latin American countries has been equally great. This interest in the book is natural: it is a bold and vivid piece of journalism in which Labarca, who is political editor of the Communist Party paper *El Siglo*, describes the massive ideological and political offensive of U.S. imperialism against Latin America.

Every Latin American knows from childhood how the "conquistadors from the North" seized the key positions in his country's economy. Labarca sets out to show in popular, readable form how the U.S. is "colonizing" Latin America without gunboats or Marines, to trace the methods of ideological and political enslavement.

Its chief vehicles are the U.S. propaganda services, various charitable bodies, and the CIA and other agencies engaged in gathering espionage information.

"Such interference," Labarca writes (p. 24), "is one of the great phenomena of these days. It is the purpose of this report to reveal the mechanisms by which it is being practised in Chile."

He begins with an analysis of U.S. ideological subversion in the Chilean army. Washington's intense interest in the armies of Latin America springs from the fact that often it is the army that comes forward here as the decisive force on the political scene. Among other things, Chilean officers are given special training under U.S. "experts" at the O'Higgins military school in Santiago, at schools of anti-guerilla warfare in Panama, and at academies and colleges in the United States itself....

The Christian Democratic Party which came to power in Chile in 1964 preaches so-called "revolution in freedom," as against the Cuban revolution, and Washington is doing its best to disseminate that idea throughout Latin America. It gives the Chilean Christian Democrats plentiful financial assistance through a variety of philanthropic and other organizations (some of them those of the CIA. "The Peace Corps and the CIA," Labarca remarks (p. 241), "are two members of the same organism: the government of the United States. Both come directly under the U.S. President."

Though the Camelot Plan for intelligence activities in the guise of "sociological studies" came a cropper in Chile, the CIA continues to gather through such "studies" information about the political and economic situation, the feeling

in the country, and the activities of political parties and groups, trade unions, and student, religious and other organizations. It allocates about \$5.5 million a year for these purposes.

Labarca's concluding chapter is entirely devoted to the U.S. Embassy, that headquarters of the subversive activities against Chile. He recounts in detail what goes on in the mansion at Augustinas 1343 where 225 U.S. "diplomats" are hard at work. The reader gets a peep behind the scenes of the U.S. Information Service of- (specially established for the purpose), notably the "Latin American Economic and Social Development Centre."

The function of this Centre and other such bodies is to spread in Chile and all over Latin America the theory of "peaceful revolution," which would divert the masses to bourgeois reformism. Labarca exposes the purpose of this imported theory by quoting one of its own exponents, the Jesuit Roger Vekemans, according to whom that theory "fundamentally undermines" Marxist dialectics and cuts the ground from under "the Communists' historical mission" (p. 80).

Aware that the champion of national interests most dangerous to imperialism is the working class, the U.S. is endeavouring to infiltrate Latin America's trade unions and impose its ideology upon them.

"In 1960," Labarca writes (p. 127), "President Kennedy gave his approval to the most far-reaching plan of 'colonization' of the trade union movement in the whole history of the Latin American continent." The U.S. set out to "train" 100,000 trade union leaders for Latin America. The decisive role in the execution of this plan, which Labarca says is nearing completion, has belonged to the AFL-CIO union bosses. They have not stinted money for "development of the trade union movement" in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Labarca names dozens of organizations (and their leaders) acting as imperialist agents in the Latin American trade union movement, and pinpoints their sources of funds.

The U.S. is also trying to influence the composition of tomorrow's Chilean "college-trained elite," the students who will in time be coming into positions of economic and political leadership. Carefully selected individuals are given scholarships to U.S. universities and colleges. They are picked by a "National Commission" seven of whose eight members are U.S. embassy officials, with the ambassador at the head!

Particularly intensive is U.S. infiltration through various intelligence outfits. Peace Corps activities in Chile are particularly intensive with

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